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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
SP-02 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 IO-06 ACDA-10 EB-04
SSM-01 L-01 TRSE-00 /060 W
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R 280818Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2126
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMSCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 3591

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, XF
SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER--AREA SITUATION

1. SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER BADRAN HE DESCRIBED FOR ME KING'S RECENT VISIT TO DAMASCUS--CLEARING THE AIR WITH THE SYRIANS-- THE VISIT HERE OF LIBYAN SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL--LIBYA'S PROPOSAL FOR A SUMMIT, LACK OF GOOD FAITH BETWEEN JORDAN AND THE PLO, AND INSTITUTION OF AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL RELATIONS --DEVELOPMENTS IN GOJ-PLO DIALOGUE--PLO HAS REQUESTED MEETING WITH THE GOJ WHICH JORDAN CANNOT ACCOMMODATE BECAUSE OF OTHER ACTIVITIES. BADRAN REFLECTS SERIOUS CONCERN THAT BEGIN GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK MILITARY PRETEXT TO DIVER T PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTENTION FOR PEACE PROCESS--BADRAN ALSO INDICATES KING CURRENTLY PLANNING TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING MONEY ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

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2. BADRAN WAS NOT OVERLY COMMUNICATIVE ON KING'S RECENT VISIT TO DAMASCUS. HE SAID VISIT FOCUSED ON CLEARING THE AIR WITH ASAD. POSSIBLY BECAUSE BADRAN WAS NOT INVOLVED IN KING'S PRIVATE MEETINGS HE HAD FEW DETAILS. BADRAN SAID THAT SYRIAN PRIME MINSITER KHULAYFAWI WILL BE ARRIVING IN AMMAN JUNE 29. HIS DISCUSSION WILL FOLLOW ON KING'S JUNE 22 MEETING WITH ASAD. FOCUS WILL BE ON DISCUSSION AND DEVELOP-

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MENT OF CURRENTLY ON-GOING PROJECTS IN ECONOMIC AREA--I.E., FREE ZONE, IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS, JOINT TRUCKING COMPANY, ETC. BADRAN REPORTED LETTLE DISCUSSION WITH SYRIANS ON LEBANON. SYRIANS DID MAKE POINT THAT THEY PLAN TO STAY IN LEBANON FOR CONSIDERABLE TIME. SYRIANS EMPHASIZED THEIR FORCE NOW ACTING IN A POLICE ROLE AND THAT SYRIAN ARMY UNITS WOULD BE FREQUENTLY ROTATED. BADRAN RECALLED NO DISCUSSION ON SOUTH LEBANON OR FURTHER CONTAINMENT OF PALESTINIANS.

3. TURNING TOTHE PLO, BADRAN UNHAPPILY RECOUNTED STORY OF WHAT HE CLAIMED WERE EXAGGERATIONS OF HIS DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT STAGE OF CONTACTS BY RECENTLY VISITING EGYPTIAN PRESS DELEGATION (SEE AMMAN 3587). BADRAN THEN SAID THAT PLO HAD REQUESTED OPPORTUNITY TO COME TO AMMAN TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE. BADRAN SAID ANSWER HAD BEEN THAT IT WAS NOT CONVENIENT AT PRESENT TIME SINCE KING AND GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TIED UP WITH SYRIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. AFTER THAT, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS JULY 2, KING HOPES TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA. BADRAN EMPHASIZED JORDAN STILL AWAITING PLO REACTION TO ITS REQUEST THAT PLO STUDY AND COMMENT ON JORDANIAN PROPOSALS TO CONFEDERATE THE TWO BANKS OF THE JORDAN. BADRAN NOTED THAT JORDANIAN PROPOSAL WILL ALLOW FOR SEPARATE MINISTRIES, GOVERNORS, AND PARLIAMENTS ON BOTH BANKS OF THE JORDAN. A NATIONAL PARLIAMENT AND A REPRESENTATIVE CABINET DRAWN FROM BOTH BANKS WOULD SUPERVISE SUCH ISSUES AS DEFENSE, FOREIGN

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AFFAIRS, AND THE BASIC FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE CONFEDERATION.

4. I ASKED BADRAN ABOUT RECENT VISIT OF LIBYAN SENIOR FOREGIN MINISTRY OFFICIAL(DR. ALI AT-TARIKI). BADRAN SAID PRINCIPAL TOPIC WAS TRIPOLI SUMMIT MEETING PROPOSED FOR JULY 20. KING TOLD LIBYANS JORDANIANS PREPARED TO ATTEND ANY SUMMIT IF OTHER ARABS ARE. TIME AND PLACE SHOULD BE AGREED BY OTHERS. BADRAN SAID EGYPTIANS HAD NOW OF COURSE OBJECTED TO TRIPOLI AND SUGGESTED INSTEAD THAT A "NEUTRAL SITE" SUCH AS ARAB LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS IN CAIRO BECOME THE VENUE. HE SAID JORDANIANS NOT KEEN TO GO TO TRIPOLI BUT

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R 280818Z JUN 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2127
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 3591

LIMDIS

WERE CERTAIN EGYPTIANS OR SOME OTHER ARAB STATE WOULD TORPEDO TRIPOLI PROPOSAL. LIBYA ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT LACK OF GOOD FAITH BETWEEN GOJ AND PLO. BADRAN POINTED OUT LACK OF GOOD FAITH BETWEEN PLO AND EGYPT, SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, THE U.S., AND THE SOVIET UNION. LIBYA GOT THE POINT BUT URGED CONTINUING DIALOGUE. BADRAN SAID HE WAS AMAZED AT LIBYA'S OPTIMISM ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF EARLY RESOLUTION OF ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE ISSUES. BADRAN THEN TOLD ME HE AND KING WERE BOTH SINCERELY WORRIED THAT NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, IN ANTICIPATION OF OR IN REACTION TO U.S. PRESSURE, WOULD SEEK TO DEVELOP A MILITARY INCIDENT IN THE AREA. MOST LIKELY SPOTS WERE SOUTH LEBANON OR JORDAN'S LONG BORDER WITH ISRAEL. PURPOSE WOULD BE TO PRE-EMPT OR REDUCE U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL BY CREATING A HOT, INFLAMMATORY SITUATION WHICH WOULD REQUIRE PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL PREOCCUPATION TO RESOLVE. THIS WOULD ALLOW PEACE PROPOSALS TO FADE INTO THE DISTANCE WHILE EVERYBODY WAS CONCERNED
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AT CONTAINING MILITARY ACTION. BADRAN THOUGHT ALMOST ANY MILITARY PRETEXT WOULD SERVE THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT'S PURPOSES AND INDICATED HE AND KING ARE GENUINELY CONCERNED. (THIS TRACKS WITH MY LAST MEETING WITH KING A WEEK AGO.)

5. BADRAN NOTED THAT IN CONNECTION WITH KING'S PROPOSED VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA SHORTLY, KING WOULD RAISE WITH SAUDIS CURRENT MONEY ISSUES. BADRAN SAID THAT SAUDIS HAD NOT MADE PROMISED 1977 RABAT PAYMENTS TO JORDAN BUT HAVE CONTINUED KHARTOUM SUBSIDIES AND OTHER PROMISED ASSISTANCE

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(OIL SUBSIDY WAS PAID BY SAUDIS IN 1976 FOR TWO YEARS ACCORDING TO BADRAN). BADRAN ALSO REMARKED THAT $140 MILLION HAWK PAYMENT PROBLEM COULD HOPEFULLY BE RESOLVED BY KING DIRECTLY WITH FAHD. BADRAN SAID THIS WAS VIEW OF SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN WHO RECENTLY TOLD BADRAN THAT SAUDI GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE CAUSED INNUMERABLE PROBLEMS WITH JORDAN BY FAILING TO ACCEPT CROWN PRINCE FAHD'S ORDERS TO RESOLVE FINANCIAL AND AID ISSUES BETWEEN JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA. SAUDI AMBASSADOR PLANS TO VISIT RIYADH IN ADVANCE OF KING HUSSEIN WHEN FINAL DATE IS SET. BADRAN ALSO INDICATED KING HOPES TO VISIT EGYPT FOLLOWING SAUDI TRIP.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770230-0280
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From: AMMAN
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Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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SAS ID: 2014848
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER--AREA SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, JO, XF, (BADRAN, MUDHAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/be37da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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22 May 2009
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